

**Water Resources Advisory Commission  
Lake Okeechobee Committee Meeting – 1/24/11**



**2011 Dry Season  
Restoration Opportunities**

**Lawrence Glenn**

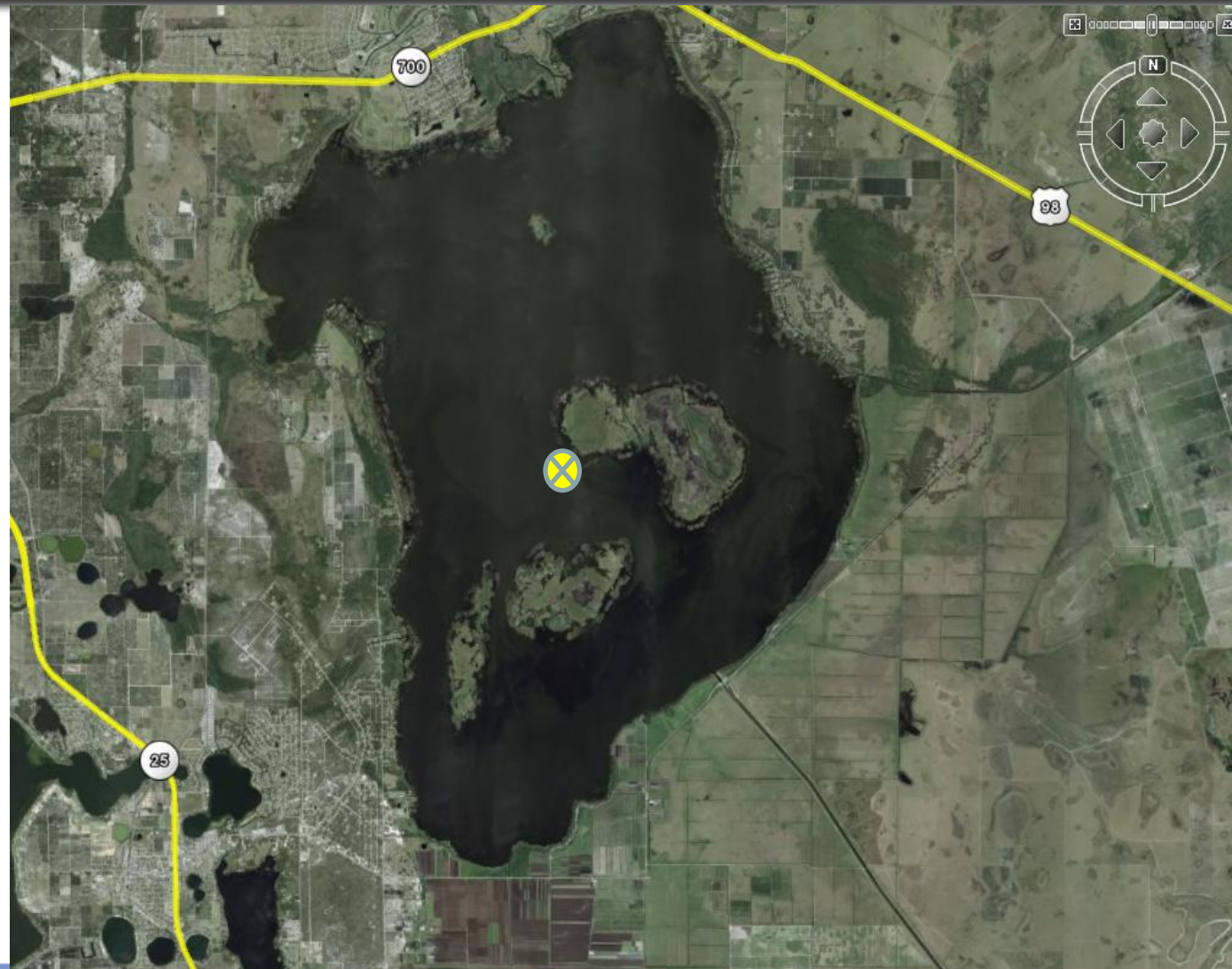
**Director, Lake and River Sciences Division  
Everglades Restoration and Capital Projects**

# Program Description

- Objective: Take advantage of low water levels to implement ecological enhancements
- Priority Areas:
  - Lake Istokpoga, Lake Okeechobee and STAs
- Resources:
  - Utilize internal labor when available
  - Contract services when necessary
  - Re-direct funds from reserves if necessary
  - Partner with other agencies/organizations
- Schedule:
  - Dependent upon water levels, duration
  - Teams have developed “trigger” levels to initiate activities

# Lake Istokpoga

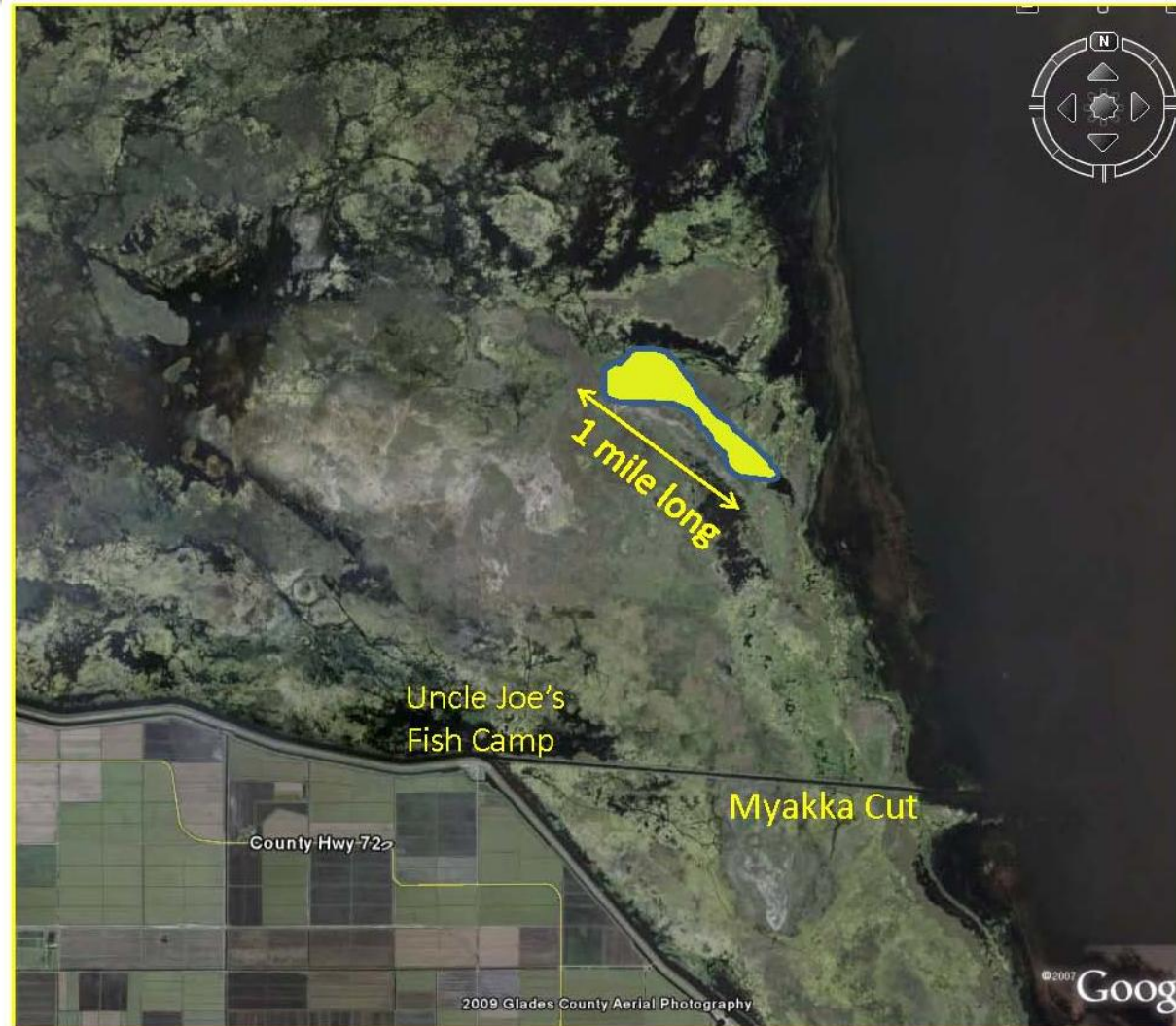
- Plant native pond apples in proximity to Big Island
- Approximately 2000 trees were planted at this site in 2008
- Cost estimate = \$40,000





# Lake Okeechobee Marsh

- Replant part of eastern shoreline of Observation Island on western side of Lake Okeechobee where exotic vegetation removed
- Cost estimate = \$40,000



Lake Okeechobee Observation Island – Potential Tree Planting Sites

# Southern Islands in Lake Okeechobee

- Expand existing native pond apple forest along western side of rim ditch on Ritta Island
- Cost estimate = \$40,000

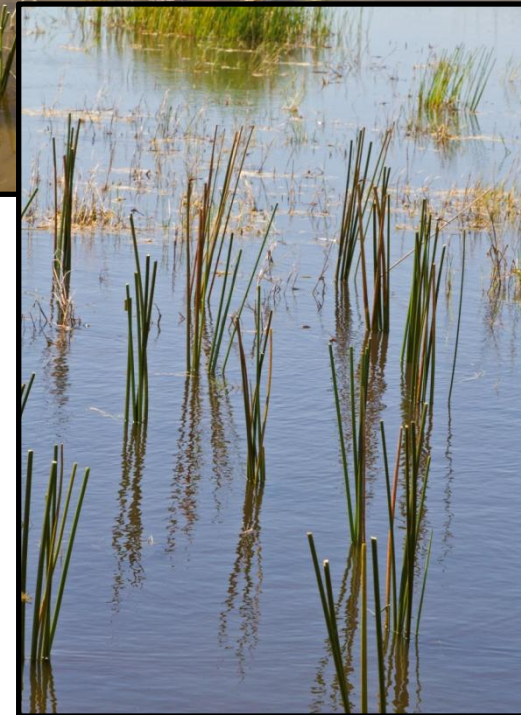




# Lemkin Creek Isolated Wetland



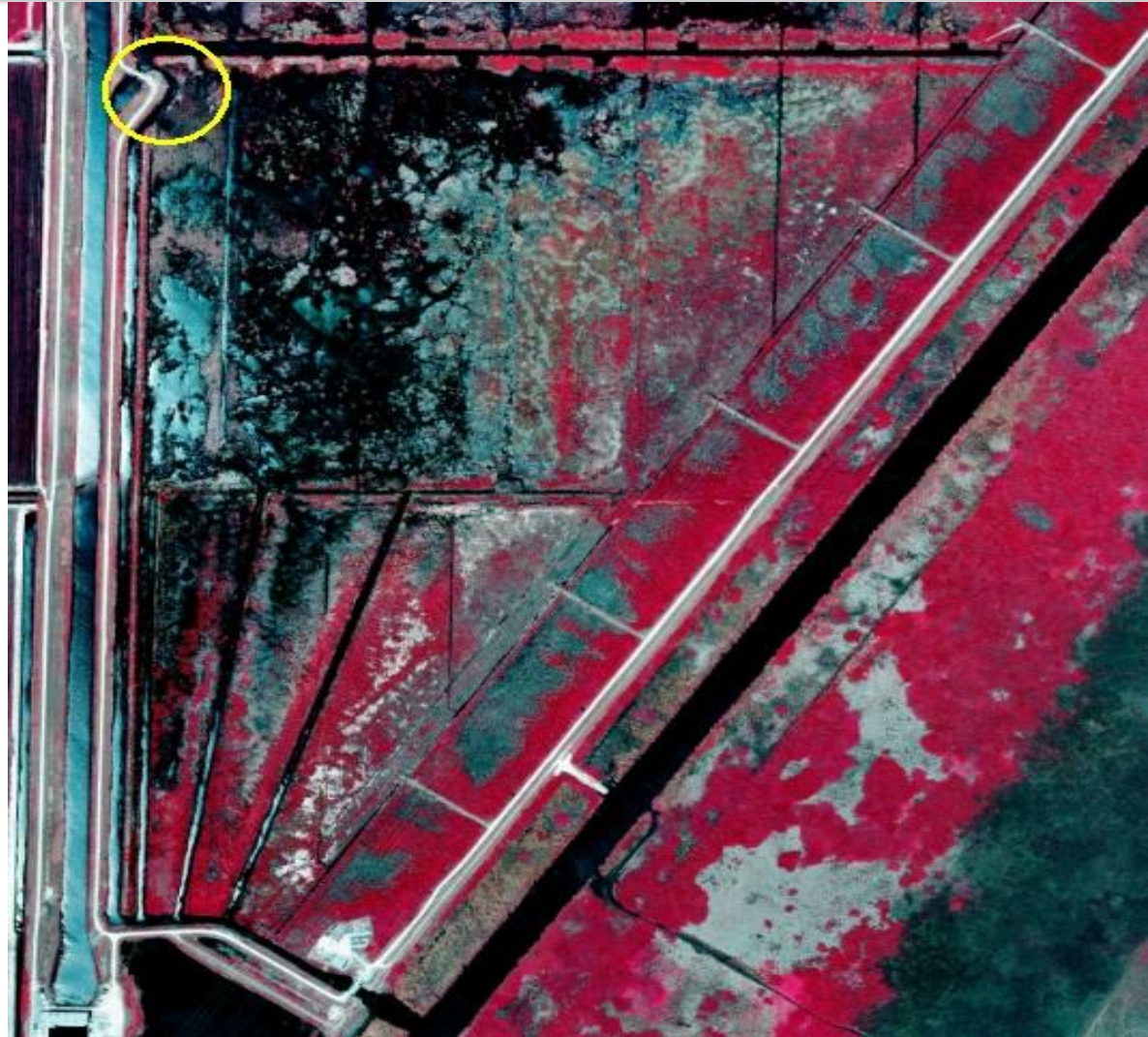
Stock wetland  
with native  
apple snails  
to create a  
hatchery





# STA-1W Cell 3 Modifications

- Install earthen plug from levee to adjacent berm to block short-circuit along western levee
- Cost estimate = \$5,000





# Treat Vegetation in STAs

- Take advantage of dry conditions to treat areas that are difficult to access during wet conditions
- Promote cattail re-vegetation
- Example cost = \$275 / acre





## STA-3/4 Cell 1A and 2A

- Maintain low water levels to promote cattail re-vegetation
- Ancillary benefit to keep downstream SAV cells hydrated
- Cost estimate = ~\$200,000



# Future Options: Lake Okeechobee Burning

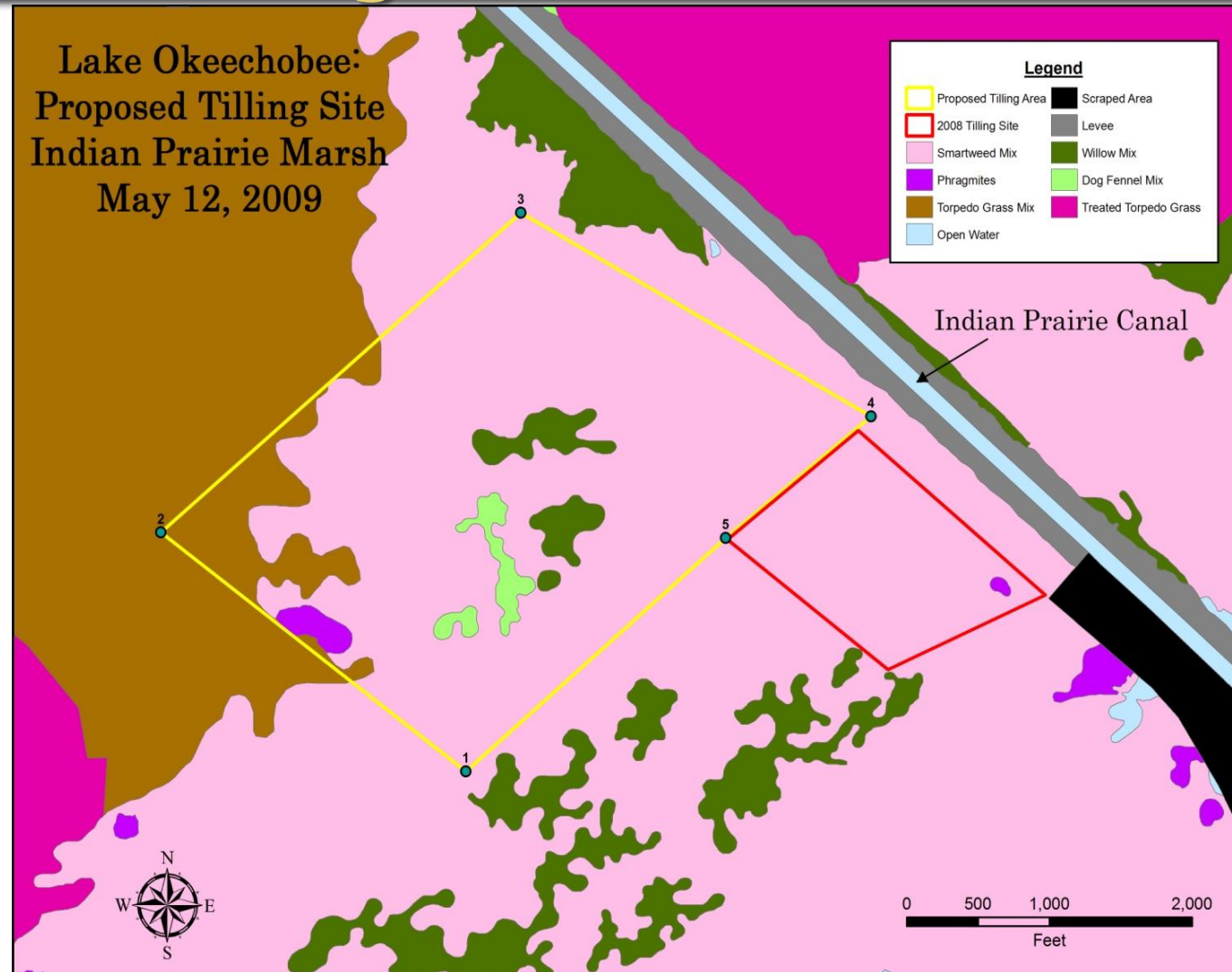
- An interagency burn plan is in place
- Currently a “burn ban” is in effect as conditions are too dry to conduct prescribed fires
- If soil moistures improve, can consider prescribed fires
- Lake Okeechobee interagency burn team is prepared to work in fire suppression mode if any wildfires occur





# Future Options: Evaluation of Lake Okeechobee Tilling Alternative

- Assessing several sites in the NW Marsh of Lake Okeechobee
- Cost estimate = \$1,000/acre
- Prior 40 acre tilling site outlined in red



# Questions?

